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# Harding-Blaine Post 321

“Flagship of the Fourth District”

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

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## Veterans Proposal Letter

November 16, 2007

My name is Roy D. Rogers  
Former Marine L/cp 1960-66  
US Coast Guard Reserve  
Eng/2<sup>nd</sup> class 1973-76

I wish to direct this proposal to the United States Senate, Members of Congress, and with the help of my good friend, a very honorable man and former POW, the distinguished Sam Johnson, Congressman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Texas. This is an issue that will benefit all of our Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. With respect to our VA Medical Hospitals, outpatient centers and doctor's clinics, to provide medical care of all types of services in a timely manner. Today it takes 3 to 5 weeks to get an X-ray or MRI appointment set up, then another 3 to 4 weeks before you get the results that it was read and then you are notified as to a time and date to see the doctor. This also includes if you happen to need “surgery”, it could be as long as 3 to 6 months to have your surgery scheduled unless of course it is an emergency, then you might get it the next week or so; and I speak from my own experience for such services that I needed then and also services I am needing now. What I am saying here is to help

reduce the waiting times for these services for all concerned and to reduce the patient loads on our doctors, technicians and other services. I think all under age 65 Veterans Disabled, on early Medicare and all Veterans that are over 65 and on Medicare should have the right to choose and seek hospital, medical/surgical services in or outside the VA medical centers and whereas the VA Medical Care system would pick up the difference that Medicare does not pay. Meaning the VA would become the supplemental insurance for all Medicare Veterans. It is one hand washing the other. Our Government Medicare pays 80% of these approved services. Our Government Veterans Administration Health Care System would then pick up and pay the balance that is left. It will save the Veterans Administration Medical Services millions of tax dollars. It's very simple, a Veteran goes to a doctor's office, he or she produces their Medicare card with A/B for services and their Veterans Administration card for services rendered. “BAM” done, and it would limit the amount of paper work. Right now according to the Medicare book for 2008, page 67, illus-

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## Charlie's Chatter

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year!

This is the first time that I have made more than our own Bonham VA Christmas Gift Shop and party. What a feeling when you can see the veteran's eyes light up and those big smiles when you take the time to deliver gifts and goodies to them! It is something that I will always remember. We sometimes forget how lucky we are to have our families and friends surrounding us during the holiday season. I know that from now on, I will make more of an effort to visit those that are less fortunate than me.

The New Year is here and if you have not renewed your Membership then you are delinquent. You will lose all privileges or membership in this great organization. As you have heard before, even if you cannot be an active member, your dues help our family work the many programs. Numbers talk on Capitol Hill, every member counts! So, please drop by the Post home or mail your check for your dues. It is so very important.

The American Legion Auxiliary's Cancer Research Benefit is scheduled in February; so, watch this newsletter for more information.

There will be a lot of things going on at the Post Home so please come by to give your support. Without you, the member, the American Legion Family cannot be successful.

*For God, Country and Veterans,  
Charlie Dew*



## Commander's Corner

Hello, everyone. I hope you enjoyed your holidays. 2009 is here. Ay,yi,yi ! Holy Cow! Time Marches On! What the heck do we do now? Punt? We are still adjusting the band schedule, please bear with us. The ALA will be having the Annual Cancer Research Fundraiser in Feb. Don't Tell Mama will be playing at the event. Please turn out for this very important...and very fun!...event. ALR Chili Cook-Off this month! Another fun event at your Post. See? The year is looking pretty good, so far! I think some activity will be happening around the middle of March, also. Hang in there; we're all in this together!

*Steve Cockerham*

## 1st Vice Says...

Hello comrades, Thanksgiving has been here and gone and our Thanksgiving dinner at the post was great as usual. I would like to thank Lavada Newell, Walt Gottschalk, Cindy Oldroyd, Barbara Brandow, Cleo Warden and family, Opal, Carol, Cody and Terry Cloninger, Bryan Vinson, Hank Costa, Lynn and Danny Johnson, Mike and Kay

Quesada, B.R. Evans and Oye LaBelle. Wow, what a crew and if I missed anybody I am sorry, but thanks just the same. It wouldn't have been done without you.

Our comrades have gone a long time doing the thankless jobs at our home without even getting a "thanks" for doing a great job, but we are going to try and change that.

I hope every one had a wonderful and joyful Christmas and celebrated it, as it should be honoring our Lord Jesus' birthday.

The New Years Eve party will be here at the post home, please try to attend and have a good time, please be careful and don't wind up in the pokie.

Our membership is coming along, but we need help. Please pay your dues if you haven't already and be on the look out for new members as our membership is getting older and we need some new blood. My second oldest grandson has completed basic and AIT and I am going to get him in soon, way to go chas boy!!!

Monday December 8th we had our monthly bingo at the Collinwood nursing home, we had 18 to play and these folks really enjoy what we do for them. Cheryl Styers was there to help, thanks so much, we could not do it without you.

Let us remember, that while we come and enjoy our canteen, the bartender on duty at that

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## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.al321tx.org](http://www.al321tx.org)

## Elected Officers 2008-2009

### American Legion

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Commander          | Steve Cockerham  |
| 1st Vice           | Bob Price        |
| 2nd Vice           | Bob Drake        |
| Adjutant           | Jim Williamson   |
| Asst. Adjutant     | Terry Cloninger  |
| Finance Officer    | Jeff Armstrong   |
| Chaplain           | Miguel Romeu     |
| Judge Advocate     | Fletcher Sharp   |
| Historian          | Charles Kessler  |
| Service Officer    | Jim LaBelle      |
| Sgt-at-Arms        | William Bray     |
| Exec. Committeeman | Reggie Gutierrez |
| Exec. Committeeman | Bill Vars        |
| Past Commander     | Ernie Rivard     |

### American Legion Auxiliary

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| President         | Judy Reyna       |
| 1st Vice          | Renee May        |
| 2nd Vice          |                  |
| Recording Sec.    | Charlie Dew      |
| Treasurer         | Lavada Newell    |
| Chaplain          | Bernadine Smith  |
| Correspond. Sec   | Tamme Scholander |
| Historian         |                  |
| Sgt-at-Arms       | Phyllis Price    |
| Asst. Sgt-at-Arms | Linda Wilmeth    |
| Executive Comm.   | Cindy Oldroyd    |
|                   | Jean Kelly       |
|                   | Cheryl Styers    |

### Sons Of The American Legion

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Commander         | Bryan Vinson      |
| 1st Vice          | Eddie Olivera Jr. |
| 2nd Vice          | Jimmy Gray        |
| Finance Officer   | Jay Terwort       |
| Adjutant          | Ray Hartline      |
| Judge Advocate    | David Dew         |
| Chaplain          | Jeff Saul         |
| Historian         | Danny Johnson     |
| Sgt-at-Arms       | Jimmy Jackson     |
| Asst. Sgt-at-Arms | Mark Hamilton     |
| Liaison           |                   |
| Past Commander    | Abel Silva Jr.    |

### American Legion Riders

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Director            | Larry Lawson    |
| Assistant Director  | Phillip Durant  |
| Secretary           | Sue Lawson      |
| Treasurer           | Kimberly Potter |
| Chaplain            | Michael Horak   |
| Historian           | Jorja Morgan    |
| Sgt-At-Arms         | Randy Rouse     |
| Membership          | Becca Dees      |
| Communication Chair | Wendy Rouse     |
| Run Coord.          | Mike Carlock    |

### Membership

| Org.  | Goal | Paid | %     |
|-------|------|------|-------|
| AL 09 | 1116 | 723  | 64.78 |
| ALA   | 285  | 252  | 88.42 |
| SAL   | 210  | 211  | 100.4 |

time is in charge and we should have a nice time. If you have a problem with someone else, take it away from the post home. My family and I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Can you believe it is almost 2009?

“A THOUGHT OR IDEA IS JUST THAT UNLESS IT IS AT LEAST TRIED”.

Bob Price  
1st Vice Commander

## Honor Guard

The month of November was fairly quiet; I believe we participated in two funerals and our Friday night steak dinner.

We are still looking for **Legion and SAL members in good physical condition** (able to carry an M-1 Garand and fire it three times, then hold the rifle vertical in a Present Arms salute to the deceased). Should any of you be interested, or know of someone who is, please invite them to come by our meeting, which is always the first Sunday AFTER the first Friday of any given month; we meet at noontime.

Our next Honor Guard meeting will be on January 4<sup>th</sup> at noontime, with our Steak Night dinner scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. The Honor Guard definitely thanks the Post Family for their continued support of the Honor Guard by attending our Steak Night; this is our primary means of raising funds for uniforms and equipment, and we sure do appreciate our Post Family.

Some of you may wonder what's happening with regards to the recent passing of Gus

Spinn, a long time member and huge supporter of Post 321. The family has been in touch with your Post Honor Guard, and we are awaiting a call from the family, more than likely in January some time. The Spinn family has there own small section of a cemetery near Holland, TX. Holland is south, southeast of Temple, TX on highway 95. This is a 6 hour, 340 mile round trip from the Post.....provided we have enough Honor Guard members that will be available, we will make an effort to support the Spinn family.

The Honor Guard wishes all of you the Happiest and successful New Year.

For God & Country,  
Fletcher Sharp HG Commander



## UNIT 321

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We want to thank everyone who took an angel from the angel tree.

The children's Christmas party went very well, I think everybody enjoyed it. There is not a whole lot going on right now. Our cancer research benefit is Feb 14th, so please come and support a great cause. There will be dinner, dance and auction. A good time will be had by all.

For God and Country  
Judy Reyna

# Veterans ...

trates the (TRICARE) for Veterans that are retired from service and their dependents have this benefit coverage for them. I'm not saying give us TRICARE benefits, but those of us that are on Medicare let Medicare pay their part and (VAMS), short for Veterans Administration Medical Services, PAYS THE BALANCE. This not only lowers the case load of all VAMC's whereas the doctors will be able to see more patients on a more timely basis as needed when needed faster. It will eliminate those long bus and car drives for those needing transportation from out side areas, and if you were on Medicare you would not need to take long drives for hours just to have an X-ray, blood test, physical or what ever you need. I do think this is an issue that should have been addressed a long time ago, and with more and more injured service men and women coming home with injuries today, they all need faster medical services. As I stated earlier I know myself

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## Squadron 321

As we ring in the New Year, I hope everyone had a good holiday. Thanks to Ray and Ann Hartline for helping us sponsor 7 children on the angel tree. I also want to thank all of my officers and members for the many programs we did in 2008.

2009 membership is now due. Special offer for January only: new or renew is \$15.00, dual or youth is \$10.00.

In closing I offer condolences to the Spinn family over their loss. I am proud to have known Gus and he will be missed.

*For God and Country,  
Bryan Vinson*

I would like to take this time on behalf of all of the American Legion Riders to thank all of you for your support and help in 2008. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

On a sad note please join us in extending our condolences to the Spinn family in regard to the passing of Gus. Gus was an avid supporter of the ALR and the American Legion.

In closing I would like to request that you and your families take a second or two and remember the troops that are deployed, their families and those that we have lost.

*Larry Lawson (Taz) and all of the American Legion Riders  
Post 321 Plano, Texas*

This past year the United States and it's people have experienced unprecedented economic times and hardship. We experienced such hardships in the past, the Great Depression, the Stock Market collapse, Pearl Harbor to mention a few. The thing that helped us through these calamities was we as Americans turned inward and pulled together, sharing and helping those in need. Our Post also has experienced strife as we endured death, illness and economic pressures through out the year.

Now for the good news, we as a Family are blessed with a vehicle to help us through these difficult times, our Post. It has worked in the past and for sure it can again. We need to approach this New Year focused on helping one another and our Post through the upcoming New Year and its events. I urge all members to volunteer unselfishly this year, help one another and the Post, a good thing might happen and you will feel good.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year, and I'll see you at the Post.

*Larry Cobden, SAL Member*

## Recipe of the Month

### BLT Dip

(2) 8oz pkgs. softened cream cheese & 1 cup mayo, beat till smooth

Fold in remaining ingredients:

1 cup sour cream

2 lb's bacon, fried, drained, cooled, crumbled

1 cup chopped tomato

1 bunch minced spring onion

1 cup cheddar cheese

Chill, serve with crackers

Can use round hollowed out bread, hollowed out

Tomato or green bell pepper to serve dip in

*Jan Cobden, ALA Member*

**Our Canteen Is  
Now  
WI-FI**

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS IN  
SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS

**American Legion  
Paid Up For Life  
1/2 price drinks every  
Saturday 10am till 9pm**



**God Bless America!!!**

# \*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*



Finance Officer



## Did you know:

1. The Newsletter can be read on line at [www.al321tx.org](http://www.al321tx.org)
2. We can automatically email the Newsletter to your home or work email address.
3. You can pick up your Newsletter at the Post Home.

The Newsletter costs the Post between \$13 to \$15 thousand dollars a year to publish and distribute through the US Post Office.

Please help us reduce costs by filling out the information below to have your name removed from the Postal mailing list. You can elect to view on line or have the Newsletter emailed to you at an email account of your choosing. As always, the email address will only be used to distribute the Newsletter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email my Newsletter to the following Email account: \_\_\_\_\_

I elect to view the Newsletter on the Web:

I elect to pick up my Newsletter at the Post:

Just take me off Mailing List :

Please fill out and return to Post at address on back or call 972 423 5423 ext. 5 ( Finance Officer )

Thank you for your support to save your Post money in these rough times!

*Jeff Armstrong, Finance Officer*

## Members Birthday's January 2009

1. Amanda McKee, Joseph D Shea, Joseph Williams
2. Roy Petrich
3. James Anderson, Lynn High
4. Walter Gottschalk, Liam Kelly, Jan Marshall, Thomas Newcomb, Kathryn Rodriquez
5. Myrl Ball
6. John Kusior
7. Debbie Morrison, Brant Spinn, Maddelynn Troxclair
8. Kenneth Hiltz Jr, Fred Nolte, Kimberly Russell, Henry Venell
9. Richard Cahill, Bill Early, Daniel Flanigan, A Mitchell
10. Roy Cross
11. Aaron Marks
12. Thomas Astle, Gerald Bolton, David Collins, Harrison Williams
13. Cory Hooten, Thomas Kelly
14. Derek Lowe, Colleen Maguire, Robert Nowak
16. Robert Judikinas, Francis Leonard, Rick Ruston, Calvin Vestal Jr, Paul Wellborn
17. John Davidson, Thomas Milam
18. Phillip Nest, Joseph Patterson, Clifton Pratt II
19. Paul Kelley, Robert Silva
20. Phillip Estes, Michael Hall, Robert Junes, Elizabeth Wirt
21. Esther Reed
22. Norman Ayotte, Louise Costa, Randy Nagy
23. Gerald Buchta, Charles Gue, James White
24. Sheri Armour, Bill Larrow
25. Barbara Brandow, Jimmy King
26. Chris Baylor, Eric Roberson, Stephen Sappelt, Heather Tackett
27. Gerald Gooding, Robert Hughart
28. Charles Keszler, James Parmer, Stephen Tomac
29. Conley Hartline, Nocholes Jones, Antonio Silva
30. Phillip Hildebrandt, Densmore Ken, Betty Pruitt, Robert Spottswood
31. Debbie Bruno, A Gordon Fuller Sr, Gerry Garner Jr, John Pitts

**If you see any error on this list, contact : Adjutant at 972-423-5423**

how important it is to be seen and have services when needed, not 16 months later. Back in November '99, I tore my right biceps, I felt and heard a "POP", it turned black and blue and I could not even pick up my shoe it hurt so bad. I went to the VAMC, Dallas emergency room a few days later and after 4 ½ hours the attending doctor said he would refer me to the orthopedic clinic. That was on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> '99 and they ordered an MRI that was done on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, 13 months later. I was told I would be set up with a date for surgery. That was 4 weeks later, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001. This was totally unacceptable; it took 16 months from incident to surgery. Well they took bone spurs off, cleaned the rotator cup. At first they said they would fix the ruptured biceps. In March I returned to have stitches removed. I had noticed that my bicep still looked the same and felt the same, so I asked why?? He the, PA or who ever said they were unable to repair the tendon, I asked why???. I was told in a higher voice, why Mr. Rogers you are 60 years old!!! I almost came unglued; I ask what the h--- does that have to do with it? He stated that I—ME—should have come in sooner!!!! What does that tell you about getting things done in a timely manner? If I was Tony Romo QB for the Dallas Cowboys, I would have had surgery in a few days. My shoulder should have been repaired within a week's time in my case I was not on Medicare nor was I 65 yrs. Old. But look at all the other Veterans that are

65 and going to the orthopedics clinic and then having an appointment set to come back to X-ray or for an MRI. The waiting lines are not getting shorter; they are getting longer and longer. To see a doctor is the same way. The system needs to be updated just as everything else. It will reduce the case load here and everywhere else and doctors will see more patients in a "timely manner" to reduce the waiting time for all services. Again, this is a big concern and needs to be addressed ASAP. With more troops coming home with injuries, time is a factor. I can give you another instance where I injured my back while on active duty in the CORPS, back in 2004 the effects started to show now from my injured back. I have had injections and nerve burns. To no avail, they have not worked. June of year 2007, I went to the emergency room and was admitted to the VAH with severe lower back pain. I was there 3 days, when I was released they set another appointment with the pain clinic in July. At that time they said they could do no more for me and that they would refer me to Neurosurgery, but they wanted to get another MRI for Neurosurgery clinic. I received notice to report to MRI clinic Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. After it was read I was notified on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> that an appointment had been set with the Neurosurgeons for Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. This is totally unacceptable! And if I have to have surgery, it might be in 2009. Again, you see my point and how important it is for you to help getting this bill to the

Senate floor.

I want to thank you for this opportunity, to share in getting something done that will benefit all concerned. This proposal needs to be addressed in a very TIMELY MANNER. The VAMS stands alone today by itself. But with your Votes and passing this proposal in the house, it will give VAMS a partner for all Veterans on Medicare today. The system has to change today. When it has every Veteran standing behind it, It Cannot and Will Not Stand Alone Today. So with all your help working together, with VAMS and Medicare, we will all benefit and the system will work more effectively. If this can get to the floor of the Senate, spoke on and made into a bill and voted on, sent to the President of the United States of America for his signature now, this bill will not and can not be vetoed. It will be for the best care and the biggest priority for all Medicare Vets today. Together we can and will make the difference. Thank you for your sound consideration. "PLEASE SPEAK OUT ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE"

Regards,  
Roy D. Rogers

## Trivia

*Q. Who was the very first famous entertainer to grace Super bowl halftime?*

*( See Bartender for answer )*